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| Viols of Prime Minister Bismar to Bonn | | 26 August 1976 |

Tests of Prime Minister's Intent to Resign

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REMARKS:

May-July 1976

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A German Journalist (J): Interview of Gendreau: 3.

1. The initial altercation between Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and Prime Minister De Gaulle in June centered around the language economic treaties of the European Government. De Gaulle proved to be a very sharp bargainer ("le grand négociateur" "Vielbargener", as Adenauer put it) who used all kinds of tricks to obtain concessions from the Germans. The Germans, and particularly the Chancellor, were especially irritated by De Gaulle's method of demanding "wild figures" of alleged Soviet efforts to replace the much higher prices proposed by the Germans. There was, of course, no way to check these claims as to Soviet efforts, but De Gaulle was not to accept them on the German side. In a conversation the Chancellor had with several of his advisers after one of these discussions, he said it was outrageous that these smallish details are allowed to block the work with German efforts from the East. He prefers to overlook differences until satisfactory trade agreements can be negotiated. In the German opinion, the very failure of these talks was enough, though it is assumed that there will be an effort with "la Grande Action Française" and better results will be reached then.

2. On the political side, Robert LaSalle Adams Jr. spent one hour on his concepts of international relations which ultimately resulting repeated attempts to mail his down on concrete issues. The concepts he advanced were very similar to those which he so often has stated verbally, i.e., non-violence, the feasibility of power, in particular, military power, the necessity of living with the existing regime, including Communist controlled nations. He did not hide his skepticism about NATO and the concept of containment which he described as an attempt to preserve an antiquated system. In his view, the Western military alliances were all based on the old notion that the European supremacy could be re-established with the British Empire as the position formerly held by Great Britain. He stated that it is necessary to understand that the nature of society had definitely moved away from Europe and nothing could ever change that. Now many, which was not brought by any colonial power, should understand that we are far from the other European nations and realize that the new approaches to international relations should be explored. He stressed that little could stem from international relations are attempts to bring back the world to the old way considering the danger a very real one. In the question of the division of Germany, he agreed that there was a very serious trouble spot in Europe which should be resolved as soon as possible. Robert LaSalle stated only if there was a reduction of tension and a village to consider

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would there be a chance of achieving reunification. If, however, the division of Germany were to last for a long period of time, a "very difficult situation" might develop. In subsequent conversation it proved impossible to get Nehru to commit himself to non-recognition of the Prussian regime. Corbala German Foreign Office officials believed that Nehru alluded to the Bonn plan offered at the Summit Conference by referring to the possibility of gradual reduction of tensions, primarily in Central Europe.

3. A high ranking Foreign Office official expressed the view that Nehru typified what he termed "great Britain policy". It is full of hypocrisy and does not let fully come of its own immediate selfish interest. At the same time, this philosophy is certainly to be expected in Asia and these factors should be taken more seriously. One day the Asian nations might assume a tremendous importance for Germany if one considers the long term possibilities of Germany becoming the chief industrial supplier to the central bloc in the Near East and Asia as the only industrial state which, in that area of the world, is not considered imperialistic. This new power grouping of undeveloped and uncommitted nations represents a favorable opening for a new German foreign economic policy.

4. Shortly after the Nehru visit, the Chancellor remarked to several of his close confidants that Nehru had a mentality so entirely obscure to the Germans that he, for the first time, was beginning to believe in the chatter about the "beloved ones". It might even become necessary for the Christian world to issue itself against this danger and prepare a common front against it. He felt that Nehru was far from being the defender he had fancied him to be, reminding himself of a snake which winds itself around in circles but has some ultimate aim which is very difficult to discern.

5. Olendorp was extremely disappointed when his meeting with Nehru, which had been arranged long in advance with the Indian Embassy, turned out to be a dinner with a small group in the presence of advisers, the Bretonne and others. There was no private talk at all and the few words exchanged were meaningless. Olendorp inquired of Nehru whether he was in a position to offer his good services to mediate between East and West on the reunification problem. Nehru replied that he felt it is so very important to interfere in European matters, although he considered the problem of reunification of great importance. He expressed the hope that those directly concerned with this problem would soon find a solution.

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